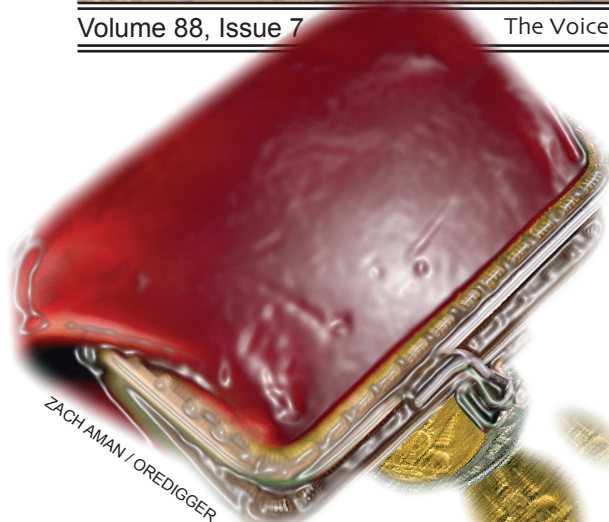




ZACHAMAN / OREDIGGER

Student Loans - *The Spiral*

Explosion in High-Priced Student Loans Sow Seeds of Trouble for U.S. Economic Growth

Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

The near doubling in the cost of a college degree the past decade has produced an explosion in high-priced student loans that could haunt the U.S. economy for years. While scholarship, grant money and government-backed student loans – whose interest rates are capped – have taken up some of the slack, many families and individual students have turned to private loans, which carry fees and interest rates that are often variable and up to 20 percent. Many in the next generation of workers will be so debt-burdened they will have to delay home purchases, limit vacations, even eat out less to pay loans off on time. Kristin Cole, 30, who graduated from Michigan State University's law school and lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., owes \$150,000 in private and government-backed student loans. Her monthly payment of \$660, which consumes a quarter of her take-home pay, is scheduled to jump to \$800 in a year or so, confronting her with stark financial choices. "I could never buy a house. I can't travel; I can't do anything," she said. "I feel like a prisoner." A legal aid worker, Cole said she may need to get a job at a law firm, "doing something that I'm not real dedicated to, just for the sake of being able to live." Parents are still the primary source of funds for many students, but the dynamics were

radically altered in recent years as tuition costs soared and sources of readily available and more costly private financing made higher education seemingly available to anyone willing to sign a loan application. Students with no credit history and no relatives to co-sign loans (or co-signing parents with tarnished credit) were willing to bet that high-priced loans were a trade-off for a shot at the American dream. But high-paying jobs are proving elusive for many graduates. "This is literally a new form of indenture ... something that every American parent should be scared of," said Barmak Nassirian, associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. More than \$17 billion in private student loans were issued last year, up from \$4 billion a year in 2001. Outstanding student borrowing jumped from \$38 billion in 1995 to \$85 billion last year, according to experts and lawmakers. Rocketing tuition fees made borrowing that much more appealing. Consumer prices on average rose less than 29 percent over the past 10 years while tuition, fees, and room and board at four-year public colleges and universities soared 79 percent to \$12,796 a year and 65 percent to \$30,367 a year at private institutions, according to the College Board.

SEE "LOANS" PG 2

Green Campus Movement

Environmental Concerns Around College Campuses

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

Environmental issues have become a major concern in the United States, especially amongst its institutions of higher education. Practically speaking, the future leaders and thinkers of the world as a whole are being trained in said universities and colleges. In June 2007, over 200 university presidents pledged to make their campuses "carbon neutral." Some universities have taken large steps in what has officially become known as the "Green Campus Initiative." Local universities Colorado College, in Colorado Springs, and the University of Colorado Boulder have recently expanded their environmental programs, following the national trends. CSM, from an official standpoint, has taken environmental issues seriously. Several groups on campus have been researching the school's involvement in the "green" movement. During the Fall 2007 semester, students from the McBride Honors

Program, as a part of a Cultural Anthropology course, have been analyzing whether CSM is becoming part of the "Green Campus" trend, or if more improvements are needed to merit such a classification*. Jojo La, a McBride student, found that many students are not aware of recycling and environmental programs. Her personal research and opinions suggest that students would be more likely to conserve through recycling, alternative transportation, and other actions, if more was done on a campus-wide level to promote such programs. The campus recycling program, operated by Environmental Health & Safety, began 16 years ago and reported that over 40 tons of various materials were recycled on campus last year. Recycling functions in two ways: to divert recyclable materials from landfills and to capture waste that contains hazardous materials. For those living in the residence halls, boxes for paper recycling are available. #1 and #2 plastics, glass, cardboard, and newspapers and other materials may be recycled in the container located on the north side of Bradford Hall. The Student Center, Weaver Towers, Student Recreation Center and Mines Park have similar recycling opportunities. Gayle Elliott, EHS staff mem-

ber and manager of the recycling program, offers these practical tips for conserving: -Think before throwing items in the trash and before throwing them in recycling bins. A lot of man hours – which means taxpayer and tuition money – can be wasted in separating items placed in the wrong bins. -Think before you buy. Check product packaging and make sure the packaging can be recycled before you make a purchase. According to Elliott, other practical applications of "going green" may include: -Walking/Biking. Not only will you burn calories, but you'll cut down on gasoline consumption and emissions. -Familiarize yourself with the various programs already available. Mines may enter the "Green Campus" movement if students become personally involved in recycling and conservation programs. Additionally, CSM administration may need to focus on minimizing trash volume by purchasing biodegradable products and lowering consumption. Mines has set goals and written mission statements regarding the environment. *Participants in the McBride study will present the results of their studies through a poster session on December 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. in Ballroom A in the student center.

Nobel Prizes Announced

Peace Award to Former Vice President Al Gore

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

The winners of the six Nobel Prizes were announced last week. The prizes are annually awarded in the areas of Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Peace, and Economics. The 2007 Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to Marrio Capecchi, Sir Martin Evans, and Oliver Smithies, "for their discoveries of principles for introducing specific gene modifications in mice by the use of embryonic stem cells." Essentially, they discovered a way to manipulate mouse genes that could lead to major medical advancements in treating genetic disorders. Each doctor is receiving 1/3 of the prize, according to the Nobel Prize website. The Physics Prize was awarded to Albert Fert of France and Peter Grunberg of Germany "for the discovery of Giant Magnetoresistance." In layman's terms, they discovered a way in which computers can store data on "ever-shrinking" hard disks.

The winner of the Chemistry Prize was Gerhard Ertl of Germany, "for his studies of chemical processes on solid surfaces." His research has opened up the hidden world of surface chemistry for investigation. His contribution will help answer the question of why the ozone layer is thinning. The Nobel Prize in Literature was given to Doris Lessing, a novelist from the United Kingdom. The Swedish Academy said she was, "the epicist of the female experience, who with skepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilization to scrutiny." The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded this year to Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They were given this honor "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate

change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change," stated the Nobel Prize website. And finally, the Economics Prize was awarded to Leonid Hurwicz, Eric Maskin, and Roger Myerson, all from the United States. Together, they "laid the foundations of mechanism design theory," according to the Nobel Prize website. The Nobel Prizes were first awarded in 1901. The economics prize was created in 1969. The prizes are named after the famous Swedish chemist, Alfred Nobel, the man who invented dynamite. He dictated in his will that he wanted world recognitions in several areas. The award ceremony will occur in Stockholm, Sweden and Oslo, Norway on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

"...Al Gore awarded 'for... efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change...'"

World News in Brief

GERMANY- Germany's lower parliament voted early last week to deploy 3,000 more troops to Iraq. Citizens in the country have expressed scorn for this decision, and polls have previously shown that the German public does not support involvement in the Iraqi war.

UNITED STATES- Marion Jones admitted to using steroids before competing in the 2000 Olympic Games. Because of her confession, Jones will be stripped of all of the records and awards won after September 2000. Jones was also banned from the sport of Track and Field for a minimum of two years. She announced her retirement the same day.

VATICAN CITY- Pope Benedict XVI spoke out against the capture of two Catholic priests in Iraq last week during his weekly blessing of the pilgrims to St. Peter's Square in Rome. Reports have said that the armed men ambushed the two priests and declared a ransom on their lives.

CUBA- For the first time since handing over his control of Cuba, Fidel Castro made a live television appearance wherein he held a discussion with Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. After Fidel Castro suffered serious illness and required an operation, Raul Castro took power of the country in place of his ailing brother.

JAPAN- After an earthquake rocked northern Japan at the beginning of last week, a nuclear plant reported that a small amount of radioactive material had been leaked. Officials denied that the leakage was a health concern to locals. The spill of materials has raised concerns about the safety of Japanese nuclear plants and potential for catastrophic results should the nation suffer a devastating quake.

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

Exorbitant Student Loans Worry Experts

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Scholarship and grant money have increased, yet for almost 15 years, the maximum available per person in government-guaranteed student loans, which by law can't charge rates above 6.8 percent, has remained at \$23,000 total for four years. That's less than half the average four-year tuition, room and

board of \$51,000 at public colleges and \$121,000 at private institutions. Sallie Mae, formally known as SLM Corp., has been on the winning side of the loan bonanza. Its portfolio of 10 million customers includes \$25 billion in private and \$128 billion in government-backed education loans. However, private-equity investors who had offered \$25 billion to buy the company backed out last

week, citing credit market weakness and a new law cutting billions of dollars in subsidies to student lenders. Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Wells Fargo & Co., Wachovia Corp. and Regions Financial Corp. are also big players in the private student loan business. And there has been an explosion in specialized student loan lenders, such as EduCap, Nelnet Inc., NextStudent Inc., Student Loan Corp., College Loan Corp., CIT Group Inc. and Education Finance Partners Inc.

The question is whether everyone who borrowed will be able to repay. Experts don't track default rates on private student loans, but many predict sharp increases in years to come.

Dr. Paul-Henry Zottola, a 35-year-old periodontist in Rocky Hill, Conn., faces paying \$1,600 a month on his student loan on top of a \$2,300 mortgage payment and \$1,500 on the loan he took out to start his practice.

His credit record remains solid but he owes more than \$300,000 in student loans as he and his wife, Heather, an elementary school administrator, raise two young children.

"It would be very easy to feel crushed by it," Zottola said in an interview. "All my income for the next 10 years is spoken for."

Meanwhile, complaints about marketing of private loans, like ads promising to approve loans worth \$50,000 in just minutes, are on the rise. The complaints have made their way to lawmakers, who see a need to regulate the highly profitable and diverse group of companies and the loans they make to college students.

In August, the Senate Banking

Committee approved a bill that would mandate clearer disclosure of rates and terms on private student loans. The bill also would require a 30-day comparison shopping period after loan approval, during which time the offer terms could not be altered.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said many graduates who borrowed owe as much if not more than most homeowners owe on mortgages. Unlike mortgages with clear consumer disclosure requirements, even from nonbank lenders, private lending is "the Wild West of the student loan industry," he said in a telephone interview.

Critics say what happened in the mortgage market could happen in the student loan market. Cuomo, who conducted a nationwide investigation, said the parallels between the two markets are "provocative."

Demand for bundled student loans sold to institutional investors worldwide fueled lending to students. The market for private student loan-backed securities leapt 76 percent last year, to \$16.6 billion, from \$9.4 billion in 2005, according to Moody's Investors Service.

The student loan-backed securities market has yet to suffer noticeable effects of a global credit squeeze that was triggered this summer by a mortgage meltdown of borrowers with risky credit.

"Once the economy starts to slow, you're going to see a large increase of these people in bankruptcy court," said Robert Manning, a professor at Rochester Institute of Technology who has written about college students and credit cards.

A 2005 change to bankruptcy

law puts private student loans on par with child support and alimony payments: Lenders can garnish wages if someone doesn't pay.

Cuomo's probe revealed what he calls an "appalling pattern of favoritism" for student lenders that provided kickbacks, revenue-sharing plans and trips to college administrators in exchange for recommended lender status. Other critics allege widespread corrupt arrangements propelled a student loan boom.

Lenders deny such charges, arguing that industry growth resulted from surging education costs and that higher interest rates are justified for unsecured loans to borrowers with blemished or insufficient credit records.

"Lenders take 100 percent of the repayment risk on flexible private-education loans made to people with limited credit histories, on which they will not get repaid for several years," Barry Goulding, a Sallie Mae official, told Congress last spring.

New regulations could dry up access to education financing, he and other industry executives argue. Some experts are skeptical, predicting waves of student loan delinquencies and defaults on what is outstanding.

"Should private student loans suffer the same sort of failure as (subprime) mortgages, as students graduate or drop out and find themselves unable to pay, we will do serious damage not only to the lives of many students but also to the economic and social fabric of our country that depends on college graduates for its strength," said Luke Swarthout at the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

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Technology Widens Rich-Poor Gap

Philip Emeagwali
Guest Columnist

Oil has made us billions and fuelled our economic stability, but oil has also become the bane of our existence. For some, it is a curse that has caused poverty and corruption, but for others it is an essential source of untold wealth and power. But as the gap between rich and poor countries continues to expand, it is clear that intellectual capital and technology rule the world, and that natural resources such as oil, gold, and diamonds are no longer the primary determinants of wealth.

Surprisingly, nations with few natural resources demonstrate greater economic growth rates than OPEC countries. Japan's economic growth, driven by technological superiority, outpaces that of Saudi Arabia; South Korea is growing faster than oil-rich Nigeria; and Taiwan's economy has moved well beyond that of oil-rich Venezuela. The United States and Norway are also rich in oil, yet their staggering economic growth comes from intellectual capital.

In reality, it is not money but intellectual capital that drives prosperity. More important, perhaps, is the reality that poverty is driven and sustained by a lack of intellectual capital. The intimate relationship between intellectual capital and economic growth is as old as humanity itself, and is well illustrated by this parable from ancient Babylon (modern-day

Iraq). A man asked his children: "If you had a choice between the clay of wisdom or a bag of gold, which would you choose?"

"The bag of gold, the bag of gold" the naïve children cried, not realizing that wisdom had the potential to earn them many more bags of gold in the future.

Seven thousand years later, Iraq — the cradle of civilization — has its own private bag of gold as it sits perched atop the world's third largest oil reserves. Meanwhile, Israel, tucked away in the hostile terrain of a barren desert, has the clay of wisdom — the weightless wealth of intellectual capital embodied in the collective mind of its people.

The striking economic gap that persists between rich and poor nations has increased sevenfold over the past century to what is now

nations. For instance, Nigeria pays a 40-percent "royalty" tax on its petroleum revenues to foreign oil companies that are ripping out its family jewels — the huge store of wealth in its oilfields. These oilfields started forming when prehistoric, dog-sized humans — our common ancestor with the apes — walked African grasslands on four legs.

It's a shocking reality, but the deep oil reserves laid down by Mother Nature millions of years ago and nurtured through the

millennia in Africa have been whittled away within decades. And, for the dubious privilege of surrendering its natural resources forever, Nigeria is required to pay half its petroleum revenue in the form of "royalties" to the rich kids on the global block, the United States and the Netherlands. That oilfield has been exchanged for a bowl of porridge, and the black gold that should serve the underserved in Nigeria is helping wealthy Westerners get wealthier.

Today, half the world's population — three billion people — live on an average of \$500 a year. In

contrast, Bill Gates earns \$500 every second. By controlling technology and taxing computer users, Gates has become wealthier than each of the 70 poorest nations on earth and using his financial might has conquered more territory than Genghis Khan, Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great combined.

While Bill Gates is the new millennium's Prince of Technology, he is by no means the first to have taken on the huge potential offered by the realm of technology. The Romans used roads and military technology to expand their empire. And, for centuries, Britain ruled a quarter of the

Earth due to its unparalleled ability to command maritime technology and conquer the Seven Seas.

Britain undoubtedly established itself as the world's first superpower through its rapid and ruthless colonial expansion program. The British raised the Union Jack over Canada and Australia, India and Hong Kong, Egypt and Kenya, and countless other countries — even the United States. The Union Jack cast its shadow in every global time zone, giving rise to the saying, "The sun never sets on the British Empire," a fact that was cold comfort to the colonized nations.

In the same way, the United States has embraced its technological supremacy, both offensively and defensively, to build its own

global empire without a physical presence in any of its "colonies." The sole remaining superpower is at the forefront of every major technological advancement, which it has used to become deeply embedded in three-quarters of the globe. The US has accomplished a virtual economic colonization manifesting its presence throughout the globe by harnessing the power

of technology and capitalizing on its clay of wisdom.

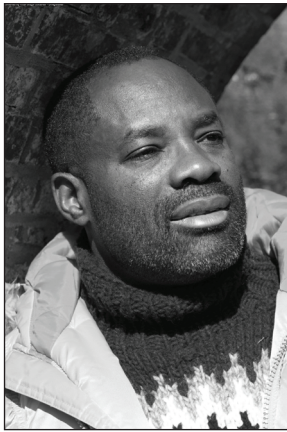
Africa's inability to realize its potential and embrace technology has left it at the mercy of the West. The time has come for Africa to seize the day

and resist the efforts of America and others to leave their imprint and plunder its natural resources.

Numerous examples throughout history support the idea that technology can be used as a tool of oppression. And there's little doubt that America's technological advancement has allowed it to exploit natural resources around the world. This is particularly evident in Africa, where the US is exploiting oilfields beneath the pristine rainforest — and being rewarded with a 40-percent tax at the expense of the African people. This lends credence to history's assertion that those who control technology oppress those who do not, eventually enslaving them and, finally, wielding power around the globe.

"The United States has embraced its technological supremacy, both offensively and defensively, to build its own global empire without a physical presence in any of its 'colonies.'"

Excerpted from a keynote speech delivered by Philip Emeagwali in Tucson, Arizona on September 29, 2007. The entire transcript is posted at emeagwali.com. Nigerian-born Philip Emeagwali won the 1989 Gordon Bell Prize, the Nobel Prize of supercomputing. He has been extolled as "one of the great minds of the Information Age" and as "the Bill Gates of Africa" by former US president Bill Clinton.



COURTESY PHILIP EMEAGWALI

Student Loans Weigh on Mines

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

Approximately 2,100 of the undergraduate and graduate students at Mines have student loans. The amounts of these loans vary significantly for each individual, but the average student accumulates an estimated total debt of \$17,500 before graduation.

Any student wishing to take out a federal loan must first fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). After that, there are several different types of loans available for students at Mines. The most popular student loan is the Federal Stafford Loan. There are two types, subsidized and unsubsidized. The subsidized loan is awarded entirely based on need, and there is no interest while the students are in school because the federal government pays it.

On the other hand, an unsubsidized loan is not need-based, and the student is responsible for the interest. During school (and the grace period), the interest rate for the Federal Stafford loan is 6.54%. During repayment, however, the rate increases to 7.22%. (These Interest Rates were effective on July 1 of this year and

will remain until June 30, 2008).

Another popular loan is the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). It is a non-need loan, but it is credit-based, which means that the parent must pass a credit check before the loan is granted. The Federal PLUS loan interest rate is currently 8.02%.

Finally, select students qualify for the Perkins Loan, which is a need-based award. These funds are limited, and given on a first come, first serve basis.

In addition to federal loans, students also have the option of taking out a private loan. This does not require filling out the FAFSA. Private loans (also called optional loans) are credit-based and often require a co-signer. This is less popular among students because the interest rates are usually significantly higher. However, the benefit is that they have higher annual loan limits. A private loan can be a good choice for a student who needs to borrow larger amounts of money for the school year.

CSM recommends lending from ASAP/Union Bank and Trust Company, CitiBank, and College Invest. For more information on taking out a loan at Mines, visit: http://www.finaid.mines.edu/CO_loan_advisor.html.



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Geek of the Week

...Ryan Goodwin, Junior: Electrical

Satira Tajdin-Labib
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] What makes you a geek?

[Goodwin] Well, I want to be an electrical engineer and I'm president of the Linux Users Group. I also have four to five computers running in my house right now.

When did you first realize you were a geek?

Ninth grade. I went to this high school where you got "free time" to develop time management skills. Every single day I would spend it in the computer lab.

Enlighten us with a geeky joke.

There was this Mines guy riding his bike down the road when another Mines student stopped him. He asked the guy on the bike, "That bike is really nice, where did you get it?" The guy on the bike said, "Well, actually I was just walking down the street and this woman rode by on her bike. She then stopped, threw down the bike, stripped off her clothes, and shouted, "Take

whatever you want! Just leave me alone!" He continued, "So I took the bike." The other Mines student looked puzzled then said, "Well, that probably was a good choice, her clothes wouldn't have fit you."

XBOX or Playstation?

Definitely XBOX, all the PS2 games are boring. They all look pretty on the outside, but they are all boring. Plus, XBOX has Halo.

Were you offended when you found out you were nominated to be Geek of the Week?

No, I thought it was funny. I mean we are in the big dork factory of Colorado School of Mines, we aren't all actually well-adjusted and normal citizens, we are all geeks.

I hope you don't get beat up for that.

No way, they'd have to catch me first.

If you could have any super power, what would it be?

Actually, everything seems lame and every power has its drawbacks. If you could read people's minds, you could see how much they hated

you. If you were superfast then you would age superfast too. If you could fly you'd have to dodge airplanes and worry about going too high and suffocating. I can't think of power that isn't negative. Well, there's shape-shifting, but wait, you might get stuck in some other form and that would really suck.

How about shooting fire?

No, everyone would hate you for burning everything up and you'd constantly get sued for committing arson.

And being invisible?

Yeah! That could be good.

What do you do outside of school?

I fix people's computers and I ride skateboards. And then there are girls, but that doesn't happen, so...

What is the geekiest thing you've done?

I was selected by Apple for the Student Development Program, which a few hundred kids in America are selected for every year. They paid for me to go to the World Wide Development Conference in San Fran-



MEAVE HAMM / OREDIGGER

An Apple a Day: Ryan Goodwin attended the Student Development Program during the World Wide Development Conference, which was hosted by Apple, Inc.

cisco. The whole day there you listen to nothing but people talking about programming. Then afterwards you follow the same people to bars and talk more about programming.

What is your favorite subject at Mines?

Electrical stuff, like circuits because everything else is just so boring. Chemistry is boring. Humanity is boring. Even the general engineering courses, like Thermo and Statics, are extremely boring.

Who is your role model?

Steve Jobs, the guy that started Apple. He was just sitting in college and like, "I'm going to start making computers." And now he makes more money than anyone cares to.

What do you plan on doing after you graduate from Mines?

I have no clue. I figure I'll go through a lot of jobs and find out which ones of them I hate, and then mark them off the list. Then go off to do something else.

Radiohead Across the Universe Review

The "In Rainbows" Revolution

Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

This week Radiohead made music history with their newest album In Rainbows. In an age of declining record sales, album leaks and music piracy, Radiohead decided to transcend the entire industry by self releasing what may be the most anticipated album of the year. Just ten days after finishing the production process In Rainbows was released as a digital download. The shocking aspect of the entire situation is that Radiohead allowed consumers to name their own price for the album download.

An electronic mix of drums, Johnny Greenwood's guitar work and Thom Yorke's soft vocals open the album on "15 Step." Paying special attention to the layering of different sounds reminds the listener why Radiohead has become so vastly popular. Not only are most of the songs complex combinations of instrumental and vocal work, but a certain sense of harmony is audible as well. Thom Yorke, acknowledged as a revolutionary lyricist, is not easily understood on the record. The lyrical content is there, however it is presented through Yorke's high pitched and occasionally indiscernible voice. This gives the record its ambient sound and serves to emphasize those songs which seem stripped down.

While In Rainbows has a definite experimental tone, the album itself reflects heavily upon Radiohead's earlier works. This is evidenced by the songs "Nude" and "Reckoner" which were both written during the late 1990's and sound similar to tracks from OK Computer. The final song, "Videotape," finishes the record on a tone that is a stark contrast to "15 Step." Warm piano parts echoed by percussion leave the listener with a sense of closure.

While self releasing an album is a gamble, Radiohead appears to have done most everything right. Their popularity can be linked to the quality of their records, such as In Rainbows, and consumer friendly approach to distribution.

In Rainbows is available as a digital download from <http://www.inrainbows.com>.



COURTESY WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Greg Smith
Staff Writer

Across the Universe opened recently at the box office and has had mixed reviews since. Famed director Julie Taymore directs this musical of Beatles' covers.

The movie is set in the Vietnam era and centers on Jude, a young man from Liverpool, who goes to America to find his father. Yes, I do realize how lame that sounds. The cast is full of characters from Beatles songs like Jude, Lucy, Sadie, even Prudence. Bono makes an appearance for a few songs as well.

Generally speaking I am not a huge fan of covers, but

in this case I will make an exception. The movie is filled with Beatles classics such as *Come Together*, *All My Loving*, *I Want To Hold Your Hand*, *Hey Jude*, and of course *Strawberry Fields Forever*. It also has some more obscure Beatles titles like *I Just Saw a Face*, and *I Am The Walrus*.

The best cover in the movie is easily *Let It Be*. It literally brought tears to my eyes. Young Timothy T. Mitchum begins the song *a cappella* while sitting next to a burned out car at the Detroit riots. The scene changes and the soulful Carol Woods sings the rest of the song at a boy's funeral. The gospel choir backing up Mrs. Woods was incredible. I get chills just thinking about it.

The movie, however, is not all good. It starts off rather slow and if you forget that it is a musical at times, the breaking-out into song can seem odd and out of place. The girl playing Lucy has a great voice but seems to be the sore thumb of the cast. It just doesn't fit in.

This is a movie for people who love the Beatles, musicals, or both. I have seen it twice and the second time I found myself waiting for the end, an unusual occurrence when I watch a movie, even after multiple viewings. However, the movie did make me think of the current situation and tension in the Middle East compared to the way Vietnam was depicted in the movie. And for that, I applaud it. My rating: C+.

BOOK & Brew

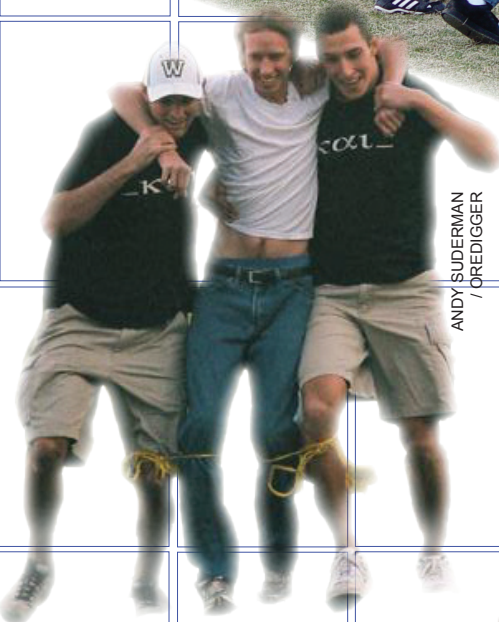
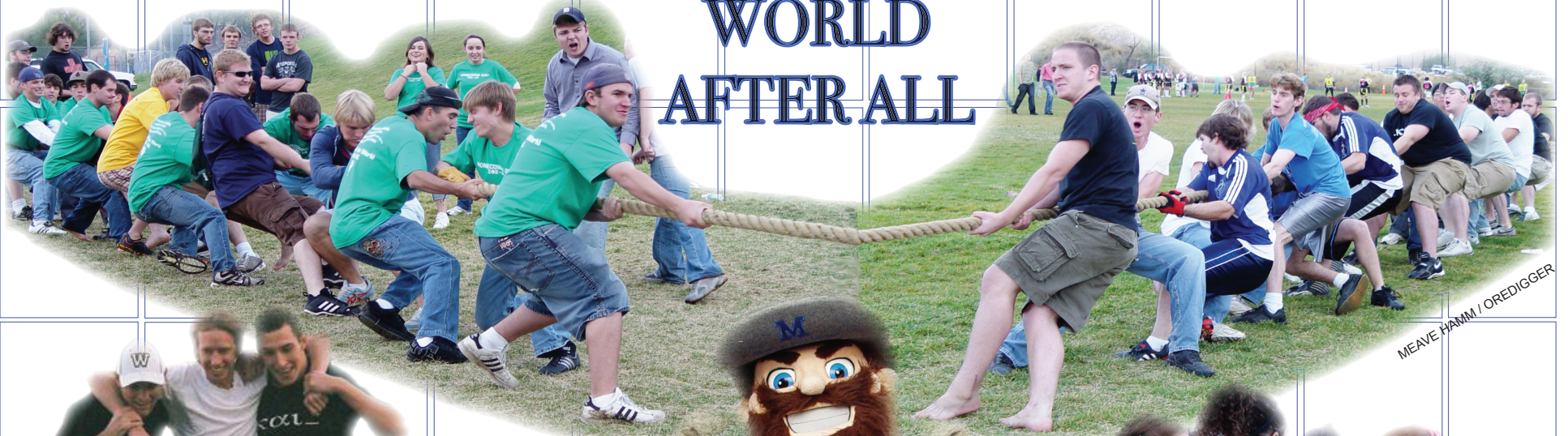
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HOMECOMING 2007

IT'S A MINES
WORLD
AFTER ALL



Meet Me on the Quad: Students participated in athletic field events on Friday evening. Events included a four-legged race and tug-o-war.



Act Royal:

The Homecoming Queen and Beast were announced and crowned at the halftime show during the football game. This year's winners? Kurtis Griess and Erin Neil.

Marvin the Miner: This familiar face was present at most events to greet enthusiastic Orediggers.



Not Your Average Powderpuff: Last Friday's events included a Powderpuff game.



76 Trombones: The CSM band marched in the Homecoming Parade. The band also played during the Homecoming halftime and marched "The Splitting of the Atom." The CSM band is renowned for its unique uniform: the red plaid shirt, jeans, and hardhat of a true Oredigger.



ANDY SUDERMAN / OREGIGGER



MEAVE HAMM / OREGIGGER

Homecoming Win

Mason Williams
Staff Writer

The lively crowd at Saturday's homecoming football game cheered the Colorado School of Mines on to a 38-21 victory against Western New Mexico University. The Orediggers came out with a very strong first half, outscoring WNMU 24-7.

Drew Ferren ran back a pickoff for a touchdown near the end of the 1st and sealed the deal, putting the game out of reach for the Mustangs.

WMNU scored on the opening drive of the second half, but CSM quickly answered when J.T. Baum scored with a 13 yard run and Derek Pessek connected with Corry Huck in his second touchdown pass of the day to make the score 38-14.

Mines now holds a record of 4 wins and 3 losses overall. Come cheer on CSM in their next game as they take on Fort Lewis College in Durango on October 20.

Shall We Pregame?

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

The NFL tends to be 90% build-up and 10% game. The games are mostly played on Sundays and Mondays, but analysts are given hours upon hours of material to talk about throughout the following week. However, not everyone has the time to scour ESPN and various sports websites for information on their favorite teams or fantasy football players. That's why a good pregame show and halftime show is essential for the casual viewers' football experience. The men who man the pregame shows have to be insightful, eloquent, and concise to be able to relay their news to the average football fan in an hour's time. Each show has its own flavor and here is the breakdown:

FOX NFL Sunday

This show appears to be the most consistent of the bunch. Howie Long and Hall of Fame QB Terry Bradshaw have been there since 1994 and Jimmie Johnson has been there off and on since then. They provide entertainment with Bradshaw's antics, but they obviously exude football knowledge since they all played or coached football at one point in time. They lost a step when host James Brown left for CBS, since he had great chemistry with the rest of the crew, but this show still seems to be the best of the bunch. They should bring back Joe Buck as a full time host considering the enormity of his sporting knowledge, but is still around as a commentator along with Hall of Fame QB Troy Aikman. This show is the standard the rest should try to live up to.

NFL Today (CBS)

NFL Today is up-and-coming in the pregame world. The show has been adding talented pieces for the past few years. Dan Marino and former Bronco Shannon Sharpe give a great one-two punch in terms of former players, since both guys may be Top-5 all time at QB and TE respectively. Sharpe is tailor-made for this position, considering how much he loves to talk. He adds some spice to the show with his humorous insights on current situations. Marino, despite his large pool of football experience, seems a bit bland. NFL Today also has a few veteran voices in the show in Boomer Esiason and the aforementioned James Brown to guide the show as well as a newcomer, Bill Cowher. Cowher may be able to lay claim as one of history's best coaches and as such is a tremendous asset to the show. They aren't as fluid as the show on FOX, but they certainly have a wealth of talent to compete with them.

Football Night in America (NBC)

Sunday Night Football appears

to have too many names in their booth. They have a great ringleader in Bob Costas, and Chris Collinsworth has been in the pregame business for many years, but the rest of the crew around them seems to be a circus. They have so many people around, but never have them all on-screen at the same time. It just seems disjointed. Potential Hall of Fame RBs Jerome Bettis and Tiki Barber are new to the game, but essentially seem to fill the same role. Keith Olbermann, a former anchor on SportsCenter from the 90's, is an added bonus but seems underused. He has a bit every week talking about the worst person in the NFL, but it's quite short and seems to be a promo for his show on MSNBC. Nevertheless, he does a good job. Olbermann's liberal views do seem to rub a few of the analysts wrong though. The saving graces of the show are the best announcers in the game: John Madden and Al Michaels. They always have a segment or two during halftime. Madden is a virtual treasure trove of football knowledge, and while his pairing with Pat Summerall was better, this team is a close second.

Monday Night Countdown (ESPN)

This program has a bit of an interesting twist to it as ESPN, the self proclaimed leader in sporting news, dedicates the entire afternoon to the Monday night game. It starts off with Pardon the Interruption, their most popular and arguably best sports analysis show. Tony Kornheiser, one of the commentators on MNF, and Michael Wilbon provide their insight on the upcoming game, often from the stadium that the game is about to be played in. This adds a special emphasis to the game as do Kornheiser's ridiculously colored sports jackets. Then, SportsCenter follows with their take on the game. This leads up to the pregame show with ESPN gurus such as Chris Berman (the Swami), former Bronco great Tom Jackson (creator of the popular Jacked Up! segments featuring big hits from the week), Bill Parcells, Keyshawn Johnson, Emmitt Smith, Steve Young, and Trey Wingo. This cast is crowded as well, but it seems to work better than on NBC. Finally, the lead up to the actual Monday night spectacular is complete. ESPN has resources up the wazoo to exploit for its show, but they seem to overhype the games. ESPN shows weekly commercials to promote each individual game and these guys, Berman especially, just jump right on the hype train. MNF is a football institution from the 70's and needs no introduction. It sells itself as bonus football to help start off the week on the right foot and any self-respecting sports fan knows about it, even after its migration from ABC to ESPN.

Rockies Win the Pennant

Undefeated in Playoffs, Heading to World Series

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

On August 11th, 1951, the New York Giants trailed their rivals the Brooklyn Dodgers by 13.5 games in the standings. [1] In baseball standards, a 13.5 lead is quite formidable and near insurmountable, but a Giants loss that day became their last in a while. They proceeded to reel off a 16 game winning streak to close out August and finished the season winning 37 of 44 to force a 3 game tiebreaker with the Dodgers.

The teams split the first 2 games of that tiebreaker to set up one of the most dramatic scenes in baseball history. The third and final game started off as a pitchers' duel, but the Dodgers took command in the 8th inning with 3 runs.

Two outs later, the Giants faced elimination despite a historic comeback. But then the hits came in. Two singles and a double made the score 4-2 and brought up the formidable Bobby Thomson. With a 1-1 count, Thomson made a hit that soared into the left field stands.

The voice of the Giants, Russ Hodges, broke into a call that echoed throughout the ages, yelling "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!" as one of the greatest baseball streaks ever ended with a walk off homerun.

Now, this moment, widely regarded as one of the greatest in the 120+ year history of baseball, has company. The 2007 baseball season has given way to a most unlikely and dramatic Cinderella story. The Rockies were 4.5 games out of the playoffs as of September 15th, roughly the same gap the Giants faced when games left in the season are considered.

The Rockies, however, were in fourth place in the race at the time while the Giants were in second. Just like the Giants too, the Rockies reeled off an unlikely winning streak of 11 games, a franchise record, to keep themselves in consideration. The team plowed through the rest of the regular season to force a tiebreaker which also ended on the last possible play, this time in extra innings.

But the two stories start to diverge from there. In 1951, the playoffs consisted of a maximum of seven games, called the World Series. For the Rockies to make the World Series, they would have to defeat 2 separate teams to earn the right. The Rockies did just that and did it in near unprecedented fashion.

The Colorado Rockies swept their first round opponents, the Philadelphia Phillies, in 3 games and then proceeded to take out the Arizona Diamondbacks in a 4 game sweep. Only one other time has a team won seven in a row in the playoffs; in 1976, the Cincinnati Reds, nicknamed the

"The Rockies went from a non-factor to National League World Series representatives in one short month."

Big Red Machine and coming off of a World Series win in 1975, won every single game in the playoffs to repeat as champions.

The Rockies, however, are not an established team like the Reds, which makes this run all the more awe-inspiring. The Rockies went from a non-factor to National League World Series representatives in one short month. Manager Clint Hurdle repeatedly has expressed that his team was "playing in the losers' bracket for a long time." This team from the loser's bracket currently has won 21 out of their last 22 games and has lost a single game in a month's time.

The Diamondbacks series was close when the scores are considered, but the scores are deceiving. The Rockies trailed for 2 total innings in the series and dominated with their hardnosed pitching and spectacular defensive plays.

The Rockies' pitching staff went through their first 6 playoff games with the 7th lowest cumulative ERA (1.77) in the playoffs since 1969. This was a continuation from the regular season where they amassed the lowest ERA in the major leagues after the All Star break.

Their defense also posted the best fielding percentage in baseball history in the regular season. Diamondbacks outfielder Eric Byrnes contested that his team had outplayed the Rockies in the first 2 games of the series, but those claims were never backed up as the Rockies

cruised through their last 2 games.

Left Fielder Matt Holliday is on the short list for NL MVP for the regular season, but in retrospect, he might not be the strongest candidate. That is not a knock on his play, but rather a complement on how important every single player has been to this team.

The Rockies seem to win in every possible way and each player has made his contribution whether it is C Yorvit Torrealba who hit the game winning home run in Game 3 of the NLCS or SS Troy Tulowitzki who made several defensive plays to keep runners off the bases.

This also extends to rookie pinch hitter Seth Smith who started a series deciding rally in Game 4 in the 5th inning with a 2 out double to give the Rockies the lead for good. Even CF Willy Taveras, who just came back from a quadriceps strain, made a game saving diving catch and walked to bring home the winning run in Game 2.

The Rockies have shown that no single player is more important than any other. They appear to embody concept of playing as a team. Nevertheless, Holliday's contributions in the NLCS (2 HRs, 4 RBI, .333 BA) earned him the honor of NLCS MVP, but the Rockies would not be where they are right now without the 8 other players that take the field plus several on the bench and in the bullpen.

Now, the Rockies play the waiting game as they wait for their opponents in the World Series to be decided. The Boston Red Sox and Cleveland Indians are playing in the American League Championship Series currently, but it appears as if it will take much longer to finish. The Indians are currently leading the series 2 games to 1.

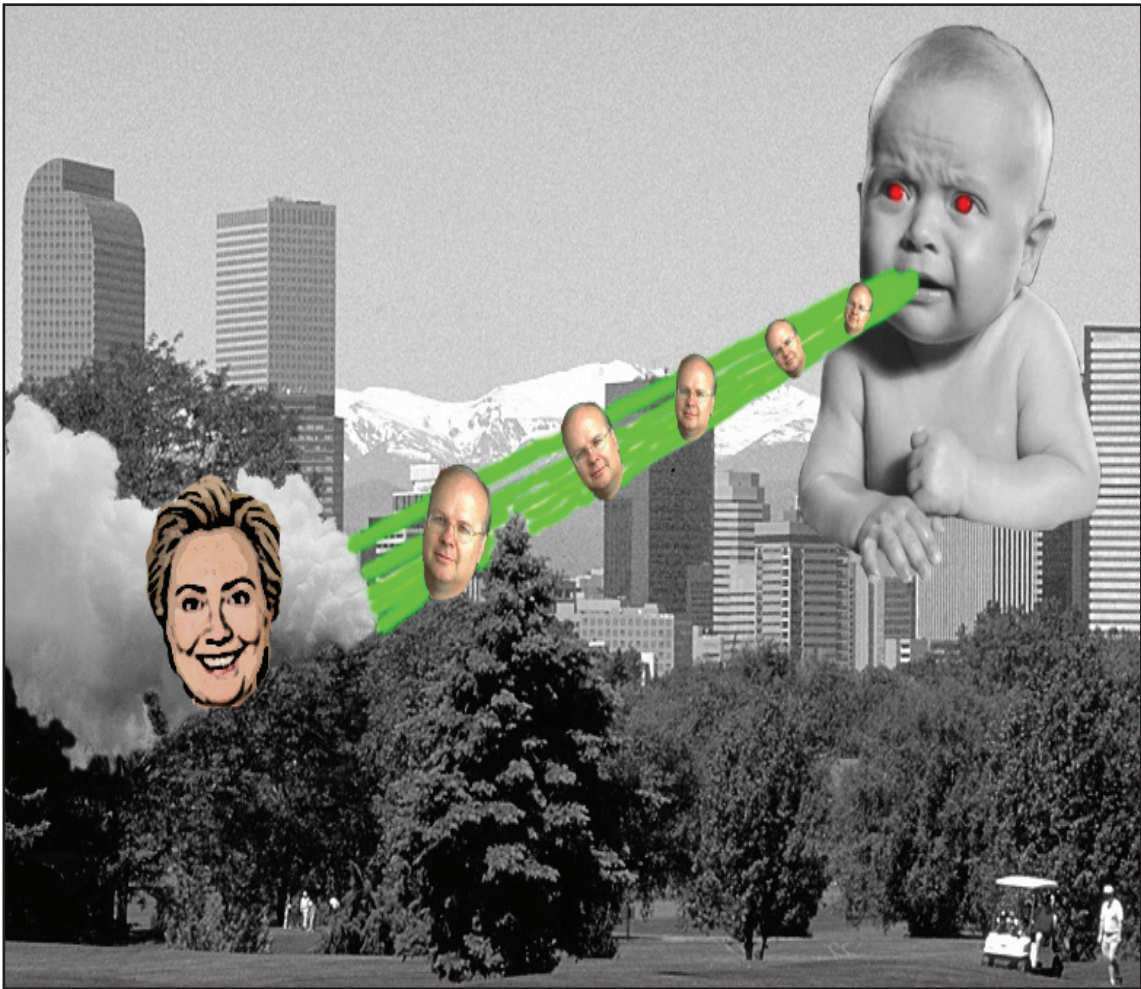
The Rockies will have more than enough time to prepare for the World Series and get their pitchers rested because the team has an unprecedented 8 games off before their next game. This gives time for the Rockies to plan out their next move so they can do what the 1951 Giants could not.

The Giants lost the 1951 World Series to the New York Yankees in 6 games. The Rockies obviously hope to avoid this fate and recent history seems to be on their side since the team has seemingly forgotten how to lose.

Fool's Gold

“Laugh your Blaster Off”

Denver Overrun by BABIES!!!



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER, POLITICAL IMAGES COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Terrorist Baby: A baby shot its ice/Rove ray at innocent tourists during Great American Beer Festival.

Tim Weilert The Infant Whisperer

In December, 2006 Denver was inundated with one of the largest blizzards in recent years. Roads, businesses, and airports were all closed for days. Everyone in the city was stuck at home with their significant others. Fast forward to September 2007, nine months later; hospitals have reported record numbers of superhuman births. The babies, thought to have unnatural tolerance for cold and pain, appear to be developing unnatural “ice ray” powers. Not only are the children impervious to harm, but they also attack people and buildings at random. The entire lower downtown

“The only known cure for the infants affected by the “Ice Children Epidemic,” appears to be lead based paint.”

region of Denver has been taken by the “baby army” and is expanding outwards. News of attacks have been blocked until now, because all news outlets in the metro area were destroyed. For now, Golden appears to be a safe haven due to protection from the Table Mountains. Jefferson County officials are in talks with CSM on the idea of building a fortress on the site of the Hall of Justice. Unfortunately this action may come too late since analysts expect the baby boom to continue through November. The only known cure for the infants affected by the “Ice Children

Epidemic,” appears to be lead based paint. Lead, though potentially deadly, taken in small doses may curb the damaging effects of ice rays. Despite all that, government interventions may have doomed the mile high city. Chinese officials attempted to warn the U.S. government, however; their intentions were lost in translation. Large scale recalls of children’s toys containing lead depleted the nation’s supply of what may cure the babies, bringing peace to Denver. A similar baby boom occurred during the late 1940’s. The children did not develop dangerous powers due to the widespread use of lead piping in residential housing during that time. Instead, these children produced memorable historical events such as the 1960’s, the Vietnam War, and Bill Clinton.

Pamela Anderson Marriage Annulled

Music Choices Disrupt Bliss

Matthew Pusard Celebrity Gossip Gossiper

The marriage between Pamela Anderson and her new beau Rick Salomon ended abruptly Sunday after it was annulled. The couple was married in Las Vegas on October 6th at The Mirage in a small ceremony. Reportedly, the marriage arose so Anderson could pass some time between appearances in Hans Klok’s magic shows at the Planet Hollywood Hotel & Casino, a performance she makes twice daily.

The two had apparently met earlier in the day and became instantly attracted to one another. They instantly found great things in common- like Hepatitis C. The two are also veterans of widely distributed celebrity pornography: Anderson with Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee and Salomon with horizontally inclined hotel heiress Paris Hilton. “I’ve never ‘dated’ someone so wholesome before,” commented Salomon. Since the duo had only met that day, they rounded up a group of Vegas’s finest drunks and hobos to be witnesses for the proceedings. Also, a last minute playlist replaced conventional wedding music.

As Salomon walked down the aisle, U2’s “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” blared from the wedding calliope. Shortly after, Anderson came down the aisle wearing a white wedding veil, a Hooters t-

shirt, and neon orange short shorts to the song, “It’s The End of the World as We Know It” by REM. Their priest for the night was Reverend Patrick Snow, DDS. Snow had just received the certificate ordaining him as a minister and authorizing him to practice dentistry in Nevada in the mail earlier in the week. Despite an inexperienced pastor fumbling through the ceremony, Salomon and Anderson were officially married a few scant minutes later before they engaged in a passionate embrace. The newly married couple proceeded to retreat into the casino portion of the Mirage for the reception. Amongst the crowd and various slot machines Anderson and Salomon danced to their wedding song, “I Hate Everything about You” by Three Days Grace. This was followed up with “Cold Hard Bitch” by Jet, “The Lady is a Tramp” by Rodgers and Hart, “Dumb Blonde” by Dolly Parton, and the obligatory chicken dance. Never the less, things turned ugly when “I Ran (So Far Away)” by A Flock of Seagulls played over the casino sound system. Anderson became irate, yelling at Salomon for being so insensitive. Apparently, the song irked her because of her past “romantic” history with various talentless 80s rock stars. To paraphrase comedian Jeffrey Ross, Anderson was ‘loving’ her way to the middle. Since no attempt was made by Salomon at “reconciliation” after the ceremony, Anderson sought an annulment, or, as she put it, “another mulligan from God.” Nevertheless, the marriage ended up being above average in length for a celebrity marriage.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Brittany: Dead

Mike Stone Reporter

She lost her career, she lost her marriage, she lost her sanity, she lost her sobriety, and she lost her kids. Yesterday, Brittany Spears lost her life when she drove her car off a cliff, landing in a tumble of flames. Sharks ate her body, leaving no remnants. Shortly thereafter, a nuclear bomb went off and her name was erased from the record books.

I don’t think she’s coming back. It is over. No more on that subject. There are wars, global warming and children who are starving to be thinking about. I don’t think we’ll be seeing anymore of her anytime soon. Goodbye... Seriously. The End.

Halloween!

Do you have a great Halloween costume this year?

Are you going to be the talk of the water cooler come November 1st?

Do you have a camera and want to be in the Oredigger?

Submit pictures of yourself in your Halloween costume to mstone@mines.edu by October 28th at Noon to see if you made the Top Ten Costumes!

Reasons to Date a Girl From Mines

- 10) They’ll drink you under the Fluids table
- 9) Proximity
- 8) You don’t have to worry about her classmates stealing her away
- 7) Physics homework is a thing of the past thanks to GF3000
- 6) If you push, they push back... harder
- 5) She knows her curves
- 4) They’re one of the guys
- 3) They’re NOT one of the guys
- 2) Ten times better than Boulder girls
- 1) You gotta love that Mines Ass.

Mike Stone

Fool's Gold Top Ten
2007 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10